

Appln No. 09/693690
Amdt. Dated: August 21, 2006
Response to Office Action of July 28, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated July 28, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The term "its" in claims 1 and 27 has been replaced with the term "the tag's". In the Applicant's submission, it was explicitly clear that the term "its" referred to the tag. Nevertheless, in deference to the Examiner's objection, the claims have been amended to remove any possible ambiguity.

The Examiner's understanding is correct in that the steps performed by the sensing device do not fall within the scope of claim 1. These steps were included in claim 1 as a means for clarifying the context of the invention. Since the Examiner does not consider that the inclusion of steps relating to the sensing device aids in understanding the invention as defined, they have now been deleted from claims 1 and 27.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner now cites Montagna as a primary reference. This document describes an insurance claim form displayed on a video screen. The claim form has various boxes for identifying, for example, regions of vehicle affected by an insurance claim (see Figures 14 and 15). Montagna proposes to overlay a touch screen over the display screen so as to facilitate user interactivity with the display form.

Touch screens are, of course, well known in the art and serve as a useful alternative to keyboard or mouse interactions with pages displayed on a computer monitor.

However, claim 1 explicitly states that "the form" is a printed form – it has insurance information and a plurality of tags printed thereon. Claim 1 leaves no doubt that the form by which 'indicating data' is generated is an interactive printed form, not an interactive display screen or touch screen.

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The Examiner alleges that the combined teachings of Luchs and Montagna would have led the skilled person to arrive at the present invention. The Applicant disagrees, because Luchs merely teaches printing of insurance forms containing various insurance claim parameters.

Neither Luchs nor Montagna teaches a form having printed thereon a plurality of tags, with each tag containing coded data identifying the tag's location on the form. In the present invention, these tags enable a user to interact with the printed form and identify an insurance service in a computer system without having to interact with a computer display screen. Montagna teaches a touch screen overlaying a video screen as a means for interacting with an insurance form displayed on a video screen. Luchs teaches printed insurance forms which have no inherent user interactivity functionality — they do not contain tags enabling users to interact with the printed form.

Hence, to this extent, the newly cited prior art is no more relevant than Henderson (which was cited previously and which has now been dropped from proceedings). Henderson taught a well-known x-y digitizer to determine a position of a sensing device. Montagna teaches a well-known touch screen to determine a position of a sensing device. By contrast, the indicating data received by the computer system in the present invention originates not from electronic sensors on an x-y digitizer or from electronic sensors on a touch-screen, but from sensed coded data *printed* on a form.

There is nothing in any of the cited documents teaching the skilled person that he could do away with Henderson's x-y digitizer or Montagna's touch screen altogether. Certainly, Luchs fails to provide such a teaching. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious in view of Montagna combined with Luchs or any other cited document.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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